



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

2018 JUN 25 AM 11:06

SENSITIVE

June 25, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *A*
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *DC*
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division

BY: *KDR BH*
Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly
Reports Analysis Division
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Reason To Believe Recommendation – 2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report
(Pennsylvania) for the Administrative Fine Program

Attached is a list of political committees and their treasurers who failed to timely file the 2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report for the Pennsylvania Primary Election in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). The 12 Day Pre-Primary Report was due on May 3, 2018 and the Primary Election was held on May 15, 2018.

The committees listed on the attached RTB Circulation Report failed to file the election sensitive report by the required due date. Election sensitive reports filed more than four days prior to the election are considered late, and reports not filed more than four days prior to the election are considered not filed. In accordance with the schedule of civil money penalties for reports at 11 CFR § 111.43, the committees should be assessed the civil money penalties highlighted on the attached circulation report.

An explanation of the civil money penalty calculation for the committee that failed to file the report is outlined below:

The committee (AF 3406) represents a candidate that participated in the 2018 Primary in Pennsylvania's House Race. The committee was required to file a 2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (12P) covering April 1, 2018 through April 25, 2018 (25 days). In order to determine the civil money penalty, an estimated level of activity was calculated using a per diem average by

—TODAY—

—TODAY—

- TODAY—**

Federal Election Commission
Reason to Believe Circulation Report
2018 PRE-PRIMARY Election Sensitive 05/03/2018 AUTH (PA)

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	PV	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	RTB Penalty
3405	C00664060	MICHELE FOR CONGRESS	MICHELE LAWRENCE	MERLEEN NEWMAN	\$337,673	0	5/14/2018	11 (Not Filed*)	\$114,303	\$7,088
3406	C00649947	SOLOMON FOR CONGRESS	ROBERT SOLOMON	ROBERT CHARLES SOLOMON	\$255,886	0		Not Filed	\$23,336 (est)	\$1,200

* The committee did not file their report prior to four (4) days before the primary election; therefore, per 11 C.F.R. 111.43(e), the report is considered to be not filed.

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2018)
12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Pennsylvania))
for the Administrative Fine Program:)
MICHELE FOR CONGRESS, and) AF# 3405
NEWMAN, MERLEEN as treasurer;)
SOLOMON FOR CONGRESS, and) AF# 3406
SOLOMON, ROBERT CHARLES DR. as)
treasurer;)

CERTIFICATION

I, Laura E. Sinram, Deputy Secretary of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on June 29, 2018 the Commission took the following actions on the Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Pennsylvania) for the Administrative Fine Program as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated June 25, 2018, on the following committees:

AF#3405 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that MICHELE FOR CONGRESS, and NEWMAN, MERLEEN in her official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

AF#3406 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that SOLOMON FOR CONGRESS, and SOLOMON, ROBERT CHARLES DR. in his official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate

Federal Election Commission
Certification for Administrative Fines
June 29, 2018

Page 2

letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

6/29/18

Date _____

Laura E. Simon

Laura E. Sinram

Deputy Secretary of the Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

June 29, 2018

Merleen Newman, in official capacity as Treasurer
Michele for Congress
1025 Hamilton Street, Suite 302
Philadelphia, PA 19123

C00664060
AF#: 3405

Dear Ms. Newman:

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that your committee file a 12 Day Pre-Primary Report of Receipts and Disbursements in any calendar year during which there is a regularly scheduled election for which the candidate is seeking election or nomination for election. This report, covering the period April 1, 2018 through April 25, 2018, shall be filed no later than May 3, 2018. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Because records at the Commission indicate that you did not file this report prior to four (4) days before the election, the report is considered not filed for the purpose of calculating the civil money penalty.

The Act permits the FEC to impose civil money penalties for violations of the reporting requirements of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). 52 U.S.C. § 30109g(a)(4). On June 29, 2018, the FEC found that there is reason to believe ("RTB") that Michele for Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) by failing to file timely this report on or before May 3, 2018. Based on the FEC's schedules of civil money penalties at 11 C.F.R. § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage is \$7,088. Please see the attached copy of the Commission's administrative fine regulations at 11 C.F.R. §§ 111.30-111.46. Attachment 1. The Commission's website contains further information about how the administrative fine program works and how the fines are calculated. See <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. 11 C.F.R. § 111.34. Your payment of \$7,088 is due within forty (40) days of the finding, or by August 8, 2018, and is based on these factors:

Election Sensitivity of Report: Election Sensitive

Level of Activity: \$114,303

Number of Days Late: Not Filed (reports not filed prior to four (4) days before the Primary Election held on May 15, 2018 are considered not filed for the purpose of calculating the penalty)

Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 0

At this juncture, the following courses of action are available to you:

1. If You Choose to Challenge the RTB Finding and/or Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to challenge the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, you must submit a written response to the FEC's Office of Administrative Review, 1050 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Your response must include the AF# (found at the top of page 1 under your committee's identification number) and be received within forty (40) days of the Commission's RTB finding, or August 8, 2018. 11 CFR § 111.35(a). Your written response must include the reason(s) why you are challenging the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, and must include the factual basis supporting the reason(s) and supporting documentation. The FEC strongly encourages that documents be submitted in the form of affidavits or declarations. 11 CFR § 111.36(c).

The FEC will only consider challenges that are based on at least one of three grounds: (1) a factual error in the RTB finding; (2) miscalculation of the calculated civil money penalty by the FEC; or (3) your demonstrated use of best efforts to file in a timely manner when prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances that were beyond your control. 11 CFR § 111.35(b). In order for a challenge to be considered on the basis of best efforts, you must have filed the required report no later than 24 hours after the end of these reasonably unforeseen circumstances. *Id.* Examples of circumstances that will be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) a failure of Commission computers or Commission-provided software despite your seeking technical assistance from Commission personnel and resources; (2) a widespread disruption of information transmissions over the Internet that is not caused by a failure of the Commission's or your computer systems or Internet service provider; and (3) severe weather or other disaster-related incident. 11 CFR § 111.35(c). Examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) negligence; (2) delays caused by vendors or contractors; (3) treasurer and staff illness, inexperience or unavailability; (4) committee computer, software, or Internet service provider failures; (5) failure to know filing dates; and (6) failure to use filing software properly. 11 CFR § 111.35(d).

The "failure to raise an argument in a timely fashion during the administrative process shall be deemed a waiver" of your right to present such argument in a petition to the U.S. District Court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109. 11 CFR § 111.38.

If you intend to be represented by counsel, please advise the Office of Administrative Review. You should provide, in writing, the name, address and telephone number of your counsel and authorize counsel to receive notifications and communications relating to this challenge and imposition of the calculated civil money penalty.

2. If You Choose Not to Pay the Civil Money Penalty and Not to Submit a Challenge

If you do not pay the calculated civil money penalty and do not submit a written response, the FEC will assume that the preceding factual allegations are true and make a final determination that Michele for Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a civil money penalty.

Unpaid civil money penalties assessed through the Administrative Fine regulations will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA"), as amended by the Debt Collection

Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701 *et seq.* The FEC may take any and all appropriate action authorized and required by the DCA, as amended, including transfer to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection. 11 CFR § 111.51(a)(2).

3. If You Choose to Pay the Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to pay the calculated civil money penalty, follow the payment instructions on page 4 of this letter. Upon receipt of your payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS

4. Partial Payments

If you make a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty, the amount of your partial payment will be credited towards the full civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination.

5. Settlement Offers

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission, including a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive endorsements contained on your check or money order or proposed in correspondence transmitted with your check or money order, will be rejected. Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money penalty amounts remaining will be subject to the debt collection procedures set forth in Section 2, above.

This matter was generated based on information ascertained by the FEC in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(2). Unless you notify the FEC in writing that you wish the matter to be made public, it will remain confidential in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B) and 30109(a)(12)(A) until it is placed on the public record at the conclusion of this matter in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.42.

As noted earlier, you may obtain additional information on the FEC's administrative fine program, including the final regulations, on the FEC's website at <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. If you have questions regarding the payment of the calculated civil money penalty, please contact Ben Holly in the Reports Analysis Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130. If you have questions regarding the submission of a challenge, please contact the Office of Administrative Review at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1660) or (202) 694-1660.

On behalf of the Commission,

Carole C. Hunter

Caroline C. Hunter
Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE REMITTANCE & PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at RTB is \$7,088 for the 2018 Pre-Primary Report.

You may remit payment by ACH withdrawal from your bank account, or by debit or credit card through Pay.gov, the federal government's secure portal for online collections. Visit www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative Fine Program Payment form.

This penalty may also be paid by check or money order, made payable to the Federal Election Commission. It should be sent by mail to:

Federal Election Commission
P.O. Box 979058
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

If you choose to send your payment by courier or overnight delivery, please send to:

U.S. Bank - Government Lockbox
FEC #979058
1005 Convention Plaza
Attn: Government Lockbox, SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, MO 63101

PAYMENTS BY PERSONAL CHECK

Personal checks will be converted into electronic funds transfers (EFTS). Your account will be electronically debited for the amount on your check, usually within 24 hours, and the debit will appear on your regular statement. We will destroy your original check and keep a copy of it. In case the EFT cannot be processed for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in lieu of the original check. Should the EFT not be completed because of insufficient funds, we may try to make the transfer twice.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THE PORTION BELOW WITH YOUR PAYMENT

FOR: Michele for Congress

FEC ID#: C00664060

AF#: 3405

PAYMENT DUE DATE: August 8, 2018

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$7,088



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

2019 APR 18 PM 4:13

April 18, 2019

MEMORANDUM

SENSITIVE

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AV by MATH*
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *PCO for DC*
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division

BY: *KDR BH*
Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly
Reports Analysis Division
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Administrative Fine Program – Final Determination Recommendation for the
2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Pennsylvania)

Attached are two lists of political committees and their treasurers against which the Commission has found reason to believe (RTB) and assessed proposed civil money penalties calculated at RTB for failure to file or failure to timely file the 2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report. The first list represents a committee that has paid the civil money penalty and the second list represents a committee that has not paid the civil money penalty. The committee that has not paid has been given at least forty (40) days from the date of the Commission's RTB finding to remit payment.

In accordance with 11 CFR § 111.34 and 11 CFR § 111.40, the Commission shall send a final determination notice to those respondents that have either paid or not paid the civil money penalty.

NOON

- (1) Make a final determination that the political committees and their treasurers, in their official capacity, listed on the attached reports violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalties so indicated.
- (2) Send the appropriate letters.

4/17/2019 4:51 PM

Federal Election Commission
FD Circulation Report Fine Paid
2018 PRE-PRIMARY Election Sensitive 05/03/2018 AUTH (PA)

AF#	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Committee ID	Treasurer	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	PV	RTB Date	RTB Penalty	Final Money Penalty	Date Paid	Amount Paid
3405	MICHELE FOR CONGRESS	MICHELE LAWRENCE	C00094080	MERLEEN NEWMAN	05/14/2018	11 (Not Filed)	\$114,303	0	08/29/2018	\$7,088	\$7,088	08/29/2018	\$7,088

* The committee did not file their report prior to four (4) days before the primary election; therefore, per 11 C.F.R. 111.43(e), the report is considered to be not filed.

4/17/2019 4:50 PM

Federal Election Commission
FD Circulation Report Fine Not Paid
2018 PRE-PRIMARY Election Sensitive 05/03/2018 AUTH (PA)

AF#	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Committee ID	Treasurer	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	PV	RTB Date	RTB Penalty	Days Since RTB	FD Penalty
3406	SOLOMON FOR CONGRESS	ROBERT SOLOMON	C00649947	ROBERT CHARLES SOLOMON	07/31/2018	89 (Not Filed*)	\$110,273	0	06/29/2018	\$1,200	293	\$1,200

* The committee did not file their report prior to four (4) days before the primary election; therefore, per 11 C.F.R. 111.43(e), the report is considered to be not filed.

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
Administrative Fine Program - Final)
Determination Recommendation for the)
2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report)
(Pennsylvania):)
MICHELE FOR CONGRESS, and) AF# 3405
NEWMAN, MERLEEN as treasurer;)
SOLOMON FOR CONGRESS, and) AF# 3406
SOLOMON, ROBERT CHARLES DR. as)
treasurer;)

CERTIFICATION

I, Dayna C. Brown, Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission,
do hereby certify that on April 24, 2019 the Commission took the following actions
on the Administrative Fine Program - Final Determination Recommendation for the
2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Pennsylvania) as recommended in the Reports
Analysis Division's Memorandum dated April 19, 2019, on the following committees:

AF#3405 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) make a final determination that
MICHELE FOR CONGRESS, and NEWMAN, MERLEEN in her official capacity as
treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty so
indicated; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and
Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

AF#3406 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) make a final determination that
SOLOMON FOR CONGRESS, and SOLOMON, ROBERT CHARLES DR. in his
official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil

**Federal Election Commission
Certification for Administrative Fines
April 24, 2019**

Page 2

money penalty so indicated; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

April 24, 2019

Date _____

David C. Brown

Dayna C. Brown
Secretary and Clerk of the Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

April 24, 2019

Merleen Newman, in official capacity as Treasurer
Michele for Congress
1025 Hamilton Street, Suite 302
Philadelphia, PA 19123

C00664060
AF#: 3405

Dear Ms. Newman:

On June 29, 2018, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Michele for Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for filing late or failing to file the 2018 Pre-Primary Report. By letter dated June 29, 2018, the Commission notified you of the RTB finding and the civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage totaling \$7,088 in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43.

On August 29, 2018, the FEC received payment of the civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage. The FEC made a final determination on April 24, 2019 that Michele for Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a), assessed a civil money penalty in the amount of \$7,088 in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.43, and voted to close the file.

The confidentiality provisions at 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. Pursuant to 11 CFR §§ 111.42(b) and 111.20(c), the file will be placed on the public record within thirty (30) days from the date of this notification.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ben Holly on our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130.

On behalf of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen L. Weintraub". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ellen L. Weintraub
Chair

THIS IS THE END OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE # 3405